

# Plaquemines Parish Weekly Summary

June 27, 2010

A total of 780 air, sediment, and water samples have been taken in Plaquemines Parish. Of these, 11 samples of note have been observed. Several polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) were found, some above the screening levels, specifically in sediments. PAHs are commonly found in sediments nation-wide.

Media	Total Samples	Samples with Final Results	Samples with Prelim results	Samples with no results	Samples Of Note
Air	502	429	38	35	4
Sediment	20	20	0	0	4
Surface Water	258	221	9	28	3

INSERT MAP HERE

## Important Notes:

- Samples of Note are samples that exceed a screening value and are limited to compounds associated with the oil spill.
- EPA contaminant data are compared to benchmarks (e.g. NCCA) to determine the potential effects of contaminants on human health and aquatic life.
- Sampling locations are not necessarily representative of widespread coastal conditions.
- Visitors and residents should refer to state and local information for beach closure conditions in their area.
- In areas where contaminant levels exceed benchmarks, it is important to remember that historical contamination may exist in some sampling locations and may not be related to the BP spill.
- The levels of some of the pollutants that have been reported to date may cause temporary eye, nose, or throat irritation, nausea, or headaches, but are not thought to be high enough to cause long-term harm.
- EPA, in partnership with states, oversees the National Coastal Condition Assessment (NCCA). NCCA reports describe the ecological and environmental conditions in U.S. coastal waters. When possible, EPA is comparing data collected during the BP spill response to the NCCA data. Sample results are also being compared to EPA water quality criteria guidelines and State water quality standards.
- EPA's sampling takes about 7 days to complete before the data can be posted on EPA's website. As such, the data EPA posts is not representative of current conditions but rather is a snapshot in time for a given location.